

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 26-67 were rejected. Claims 1-25 and 68-90 were allowed. By the present Response, claims 26, 49, and 62 are amended. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-90 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

In the present action, the Examiner rejected claims 26-48 and claims 49-67 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. With regard to claims 26-48, the Examiner indicated a lack of antecedent basis for two terms (“the dominant” and “the homogenization”) found in claim 29. After reviewing claims 26 and 29, the Applicant believes that the Examiner intended to indicate the lack of antecedent basis with regard to claim 26. Therefore, the Applicant has amended claim 26 to provide the antecedent basis requested by the Examiner. These amendments are not believed to narrow the scope of claim 26 in any manner but, instead, merely correct a purported lack of antecedent basis.

With regard to claims 49-67, the Examiner indicated a lack of antecedent basis for the term “the non-selected regions” found in claim 52. After reviewing claims 49 and 52, the Applicant believes that the Examiner intended to indicate the lack of antecedent basis with regard to claim 49. Therefore, the Applicant has amended independent claim 49 and dependent claim 62 to recite “one or more non-selected regions,” thereby providing the antecedent basis requested by the Examiner. These amendments are not believed to narrow the scope of claims 49 or 62 in any manner but, instead, merely correct a purported lack of antecedent basis.

In addition, the Examiner rejected claim 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite with regard to the phrase “different manners.” While Applicant does not agree that the original recitation of claim 49 to “processing the selected regions and the non-selected regions in different manners” is indefinite,

Applicant has amended claim 49 to clarify that what is intended to be conveyed is that the selected regions and non-selected regions are differentially processed relative to one another to create a processed image. Support and an exemplary embodiment for this recitation can be found in the application at page 11, line 19 to page 12, line 14. This amendment is not believed to narrow the scope of claim 49 in any manner but, instead, merely clarifies that the selected and non-selected regions are processed differently relative to one another.

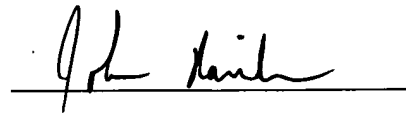
If the Examiner wishes to maintain this rejection, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner suggest suitable language that conveys the concept of differentially processing the selected and non-selected regions that the Examiner finds acceptable.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 28, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Rariden", is written over a horizontal line.

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